Annual Valley Parade & Street Fair

CRAPFULE VISITACION-VALLEY

Vol. II, No 5

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

May 1987



part 2 in a series

Neighbors Can Discourage Trafficking

By Cheryl Cowan

What recourses do residents have to stop drug trafficking? According to Captain Reed,Potrero Station, plenfy. He advises that residents do all they can to prevent becoming victims of crime. "People under-use the services that the police offer. We have community programs such as project SAFE, a program that stresses safefy awareness," Reed noted. He cites the need for citizens to identify their property by engraving their driver's license number on pieces of property.

Reed advises that people get to know their neighbors and possibly use silver decals to identify those houses that are securely protected. "Residents and businesses can ask the police to come to their locations for a security survey. We will come out to private residences or business locations and determine how safe the location is. We also give hints on how to make a home more secure."

One thing is certain, in order to make convictions stick, the police need citizens who are willing to testify. Anonymous calls are not

Reed said "i understand the fear of retribution, but we need specific information. If we have someone who is willing to testify in court, then we have a better chance of convicting drug dealers."

Reed emphasizes that communities have to be organized in order to combat drug abuse. "You can sure bet they (the drug dealers) are organized. Communities need to invite police to meetings. There

Continued on Page 3

Community Gardens Rescued From Bulldozer

Visitacion Valley's community gardens cultivated on San Francisco Water Department land have been saved for at least ten years according to Supervisor Bill Maher, who along with public spirited Visitacion Valley residents, and garden conservation groups: San Francisco League of Urban Gardens, Trust for Public Land, San Francisco Tomorrow and the Green Belt Congress, waged a passionate campaign to avert the Water Department's plans to dig up the

decaying underground pipes and sell the land to private interests.

"Hyoka Bells, Community Garden Coordinator for the Visitacion Valley Community Center, deserves a lot of credit for mobilizing the community to distribute petitions which generated more than 500 signatures opposing the sale of the land," says Christina Elmstrom of SLUG. "Also, SLUG's long term policy work with the Board of Supervisors has paid off.

Continued on Page 5

Your Opinions Needed At Townhall Meeting

San Francisco Supervisor Tom
Hsieh will hold a Visitacion Valley/
Little Holiywood Townhall Meeting
on Tuesday, May 5, 1987 from
7:00 -- 9:00 p.m. in the social room
of the St. James Churc Licated at
240 Leland Avenue. John King,
Director of the Visitacion Valley
Senior Escort Service will act as
moderator.

Supervisor Hsieh will present with the following officials: Commissioner Morris Bemstein, President of the Airport Commission, Louis Martin, Area Manager of Bay Tracon, Federal Aviation Administration, Ron Wilson, Director of Communify Affairs, Airport Commission, Captain Frank Reed, Commander of the Potrero District Poilce Station, Peter Straus, Director of Service Planning, MUNI, and Norman Bray, Director of Bureau of Traffic Engineering, Department of Public Works.

The meeting will address community issues of: air traffic noise, drug abuse enforcement, MUNI service, and Additional Unit Amnesty.

Residents of the area will also be able to openly discuss other neighborhood concems of Interest to them. Supervisor Hsleh encourages all residents to come and express their views about issues that need to be addressed by the City.

This is the fifth Townhall Meeting that Supervisor Hsieh is holding on an ongoing basis throughout San Francisco. Supervisor Hsieh has been very happy with the success of the communication link established by these forums between the comunity and City Hall.

"I am very pleased with the personal contact that I am able to maintain with the residents of this city," stated Supervisor Hsieh. "I believe the residents do know that they have access to City Hall and that their concems will be heard and addressed."

CENTERVOICE

By Julia Kavanagh

Your Neighborhood Center

Your Community Center is an unique organization. We grew out of the "Settlement House" movement around the turn of the century, and are as vital to today's neighborhood as we were at the beginning. Our purpose was, and still is to support and enhance the "family." Of course, families today are changing, and the mom, pop, sis, baby & grandma family is no longer the typical family structure. Because of this, we look at family as the partnership or alliance of a group of people for mutual support and the survival of our society. Today's family members, be they related by blood or not, come together with common purpose: love of life and caring for each other. A group of roommates can be a family. A community can be a family. We are a family.

We have joined together to assist people in their efforts to live together. This assistance can take as many forms as there are needs. We help with such basic things as providing food to eat and shoes for naked feet. We help people to get to know themselves and each other, we teach our language to the newcomer and teach parents to understand the language of their children.

To continue to do these things, we must be strong. We must gather together as family and advocate that our community family not only survives, but THRIVES. Your Community Center is a most vital resource to that end. It is the only institution organized specifically for that purpose. The survival of the Community Center Is Important for the promotion of family ideals for today's family.

You are the crucial element in the work of the Community Center. A family is made up of its members, and Is only intact when Its members care about and support each other. Your presence is required for the well being of this family. Like every family, we exist for cur mutual support. What do you need? What can you give? Stop by or call soon...we're looking forward to seeing you.

Editorial Comment

By Debra Etienne

"We used to have a ball," Bob is found of saying, "and it was good, clean fun, too." My friend Bob, who works in payroll, remembers the good ole days when nelghbors were friends and for blocks around, everybody knew everybody else. Neighbors pitched in and helped one another. Divorced, middle aged, potbellied and somewhat crabby, Bob's beliefs typifies his generation's love of the way it used to be.

When his kids were growing up in Belmont, every hot Saturday there was a mischievously planned neighborhood water fight. Usually the kids initiated the skirmishes by dumping a bucket of cold water down a dad's back. That led to more water buckets, garden hoses and, well, you can imagine the rest. Imagination was plentifui, and Bob remembers simple, dumb fun, ilke blocking off the street for an annual Fourth of July block party where 14 neighborhood familles attended with their assigned dishes.

After living on my street nearly two years, I don't even know my doors down. two neighbors Perhaps not having kids and being able to bump Into them at the Girl Scout meeting or school carnival contributes to my isolated state. But what happened to being friendly with your neighbors, klds or no kids? Once, I whipped up one of my delicious batches of chocolate peanut-butter chip cookies and proudly delivered them to my neighbors across the street who have three teenage boys. It was my way of saying, "Hey we're over here, can't we at least chit chat while washing our cars, or pulling our crabgrass?" They were not terribly inpressed.

Nope, people just don't get involved any more. Not like they did in Bob's day. I haven't quite figured out if it's different attltudes or just today's fast pace of life that's changing the way people Interact with one another. People don't seem to care about each other, and it shows. Maybe they were never taught better, or perhaps they are too busy pursuing their MBAs and climbing their career ladders.

Take Gloria in the mailroom for instance. A couple of months ago when she answered the phone, her voice sounded muffled, not as cheerful as usual. When I asked her if she was feeling under the weather, she gave me a blowbyblow description of her morning's visit to the dentist's office. Her root canal work lasted four hours, and I received a 15-minute mini version complete with drilling Imitations. For all the help she gives me, I didn't mind listening to her ordeal, asking her questions and lending my sympathy. Gloria needed sómeone to stóp for just a minute in the hectic day and recognize her agony. It Isn't too difficult to tell when coworkers or neighbors need some attention. Gloria didnt tell me the commonly heard "fine" when I Inquired about her health. She lald It out.

I wish more people could do that, but It would only work if the person asking really cared to listen to the other person's dilemmas, no matter how trite.

And since dllemma pre inevltable, It's nice to have pelle who care. Neighbors can be there for those times when you need someone to pick up your mail from the weekend, or watch the kids for few minutes. They can be your friend. After all, who has too many friends.

Speaking of Health

By Jacqueline W. Wasserman, RN, FNP

Facts About

There has been growing concem among the public as the realities of AIDS as an epidemic sweeps the country and the world. Many misconceptions about the dread disease have been spread, leading to loss of jobs, home and alienation of families, friends. The following facts will help to increase understanding of what AIDS is.

AIDS is a virus, now called HIV,

which attacks and destroys the immune system. It leaves the boopen to many infections and life threatening illnesses. Currently over 70% of AIDS patients are gay males, but the disease also effects heterosexuals, intravenous drug users, hemophiliacs, and their sex partners. No one is truly safe from this epidemic as increases in the other groups rise.

AIDS cannot be spread by casual contact. AIDS is transmitted only through clearly identifiable sexual activities and by blood to blood contact. Evidence supports that AIDS is not transmissible through air, by things touched by people with AIDS or by surfaces in the environment that have been contaminated to evidence supports that AIDS spread by saliva, sweat, or tears.

Currently there is a blood test for HIV (the AIDS virus). However, even though it may be negative, it is not a guarantee that one cannot contract AIDS in the future. The incubation period for AIDS is now thought to be from 7-10 years. The nation's blood supply is now screened for AIDS and is considered safe.

There presently is no vaccine against the AIDS virus. Researchers are hopeful there will be, but it takes many years to test a vaccine, have it approved by the FDA, and available to the public. In the meantime, safe sex guidelines are what can save your life. They will be discussed in the next issue.

Any questions about AIDS can be directed to 863-AIDS -- the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To Whom It May Concern,

i have lived in Visitaction Valley since 1941 and raised 6 children here.

The "Victory Gardens" we planted during World War II were food for both body & soul" during that trying time, since most gardens had some flowers as well as vegetables. They brought together people who moved here from all parts of our country.

We continue to need the effectiveness of community gardens and open space in bringing together people who have their roots" all over our world. Gardening gives our Visitacion Valley Community a chance to work and enjoy together some of the good things in our valley. I have seen gardening motivate our young people towards careers in agriculture, etc. A new pride in our community is "grow-

ing" rapidly. We are getting known as a place where the young and old do things together because they want tol

Don't destroy this fine community spirit by taking away our Community Gardens and open space In Visitacion Valleyi

Sincerely,

Mrs. Juanita Carl

Leland Ave

(Many letters were received in support of our community gardens. Mrs. Carl's letter was exemplary of them. Editor)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KOYUSE CAMP FIRE CLUB WHO WON "BEST FOREIGN COUNTRY GARDEN" RIBBON AT THE SAN FRANCISCO LANDSCAPE GARDEN SHOW AT FORT MASON CENTER IN APRIL.

GRAPI		
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GRAPFVIHE

Drug Trafficking

Continued from Page 1

has to be an organized effort by police and people in the community," he stated.

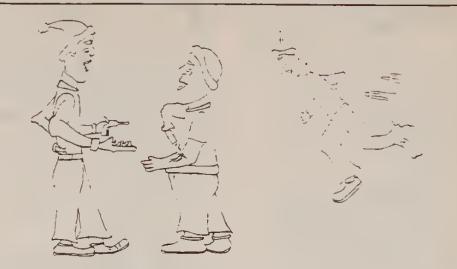
A good example of community and police cooperation to stop drugs was the highly publicized Bayview anti-drug project. The project began with a police investigation and crackdown on drug activity in the neighborhood and concluded with an anti-drug and crime march.

The project included ministers from 52 congregations, the Officers for Justice Organization, the Black Firefighters Association and businessmen and residents from the community. Everyone invoived donated their time and energy to

the cause. The theme of the project was "Crime is not a part of our Black heritage."

According to Reed the investigation focused on the corner of Third and Newcomb. The plainsclothes operation resulted in 10 search and selzure warrants and 43 arrest warrants. However Reed noted that it is hard to establish just how successful the effort was In terms of stopping drug abuse and crime because most of the cases were stlli pending in court at the time of the interview.

it is apparent that drugs are increasing in Visitacion Valiey. It is also apparent that cooperation between the residents, businesses and police Is needed to slay the predator.



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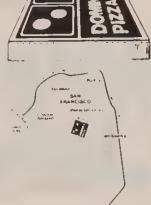
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BACK TO THE BEAT

By Sqt. Dennis Gustafson

SFPD Community Services, Crime Prevention & You

The definition of crime prevention is THE ANTICIPATION, THE RECOGNITION AND THE APPRAISAL OF A CRIME RISK AND THE INITIATION OF AN ACTION TO REMOVE OR REDUCE IT. The preventive action Is taken before crime occurs. This is the goal of the SFPD Community Services Division.

The ever increasing crime rate, coupled with the ilmited strength of the Police Department can no ionger just react to the crime but take action before a crime is committed. The primary vehicle for such action is through education.

The first step in the educational process takes place within the SFPD. The Community Services Division is actively involved in Recruitment Training at the Police Academy, and In roll call or onthe-job training at your District Police Station. In addition, the Police District Station has an officer assigned as Ilalson to the Community Services Division. This allows more effective response to and coordination of crime prevention needs of their respective communitie

The Community Services Division is constantly evaluating and updating the SFPD's Crime Prevention information and materials In the form of brochures, security hardware displays, crime prevention education vans, films, slides and videos. We also actively exchange Ideas and information regarding Crime Prevention Education with associated local, state and federal agencies.

The next step in the educational process, and definitely the most Important, is the education within the communities of San Francisco. A major concern of the Community Services Division is the education through crime prevention of you, the citizen. By presenting Crime Prevention meetings and disseminating Crime Prevention related materials, this Division attempts to get you the citizen to begin sizing up situations the same way a criminal would. Looking for opportunities to commit crime and then taking the proper action to remove or reduce the opportunities before the crime is committed.

The Community Services Division through Crime Prevention Education hopes to encourage you to take an active role in preventing crime, to give information leading to the arrest and conviction of criminals, and to help in the identification and recovery of stolen property.

Our ultimate goal is greater public trust in law enforcement and through positive police/community relations, the reduction of crime. When Police and community through positive Interaction begin to reduce the opportunities for crime; the total number of crimes committed will also be reduced.

Remember, Crime Prevention is every one's business, so do your part and become Involved. You will not only be helping the SFPD, but more importantly, you will be helping yourself.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVI-SION Phone Number: 553-1345

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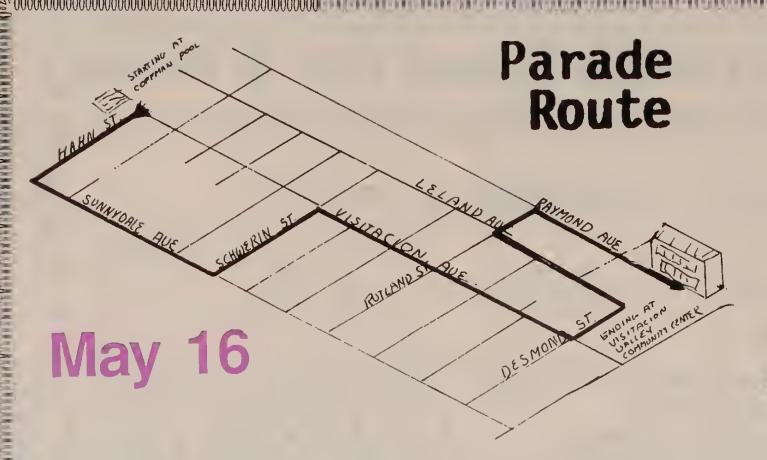
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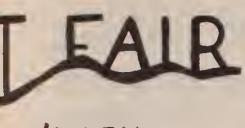
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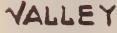
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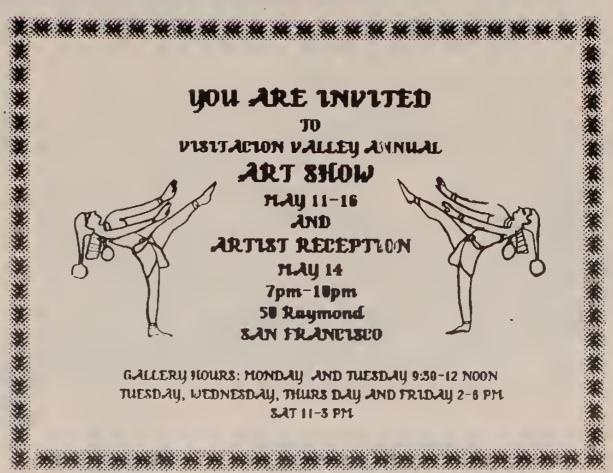
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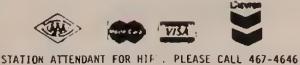
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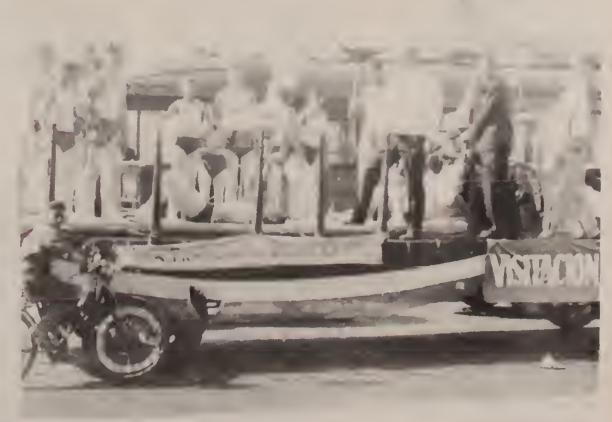
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TAY ANY AMERICAN RESIDENTS IDENTIFY THEMSELVES IN THESE MOTOS?

GRAPFVINE

WHEN THE VALLEY WAS YOUNG

By Len Appiano

Recognizing an obvious need for a permanent gathering place where her fellow residents could assemble, Florence Friedman helped establish the Visitacion Valley Community Center.

Today, almost 70 years later, the center remains the most eminent institution in what has been affectionately known as "the valley of the good neighbor."

During its initial years, growing interest in the new center's array of activities motivated an eventual need for expansion.

In 1922, architect Dorothy
Wormser donated a set of pians to
the community calling for construction of a new complex on a site 75
by 100 feet.

As described by Miss Friedman's published report announcing an eventful Sunday afternoon groundbreaking scheduled For April 23, 1922, 'the plans call for a 50 foot frontage on Raymond Ave. which includes the club room, library, and class or meeting room.

"The domestic science room, clinic, office, and main entrance and lobby face an Interior court. The gymnaslum and auditonium combined is 75 by 35 feet."

MIss Friedman's report also stressed that the new bullding's central section would be two stories high containing modest living quartels for resident center workers.

In a Visitacion Valley Improvement a ociation report published in 1929, John Halon recounted the thriving center's purpose "to foster a more neighborly feeling; to use to better advantage lelsure time; to promote the welfare of the district; and to provide recreation for the neighborhood."

Stressed M. A. Nolan, then principal of the Visitacion Valley Grammar School, "Eyes yet unborn will thank the eiders for the community center. How we ever lived without it we do not really know."

Community Gardens Rescued From Bulldozer

Continued from Page 1

We are grateful to Supervisors Bill Maher, Nancy Walker and Tom Hsieh who supported us all the way. However, I haven't seen anything in writing so I haven't popped the champagne cork yet."

Supervisor Maher stated that "this is an Issue of great Importance to the people in Visitacion VAlley and we have been working on it a long time. I am delighted to have reached resolution... the City's Department of Real Estate is arranging negotiations and it is the Board's policy to pursue long term leases." Maher credits Don Birrer, General Manager of the Public Utliities Commission and Dick Evar Director of the Department of P lic Works, as key players in saving the gardens, and everyone Involved cites San Francisco Press editorial on Sunday, April as being a critical element in the successful conclusion of this prob-

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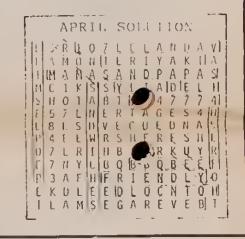
By Anne Kaartunen

SOLUTION NEXT ISSUE

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MERCHANTS MINI-NOTES

By Anne Kaartunen

The growth of our business area is again evidenced by the opening of a new store, Lady Carol's Fashions, (see ad) at 170 B Leland Ave. Mrs Carolyn Thompson (a long-time Visitacion Valley resident), has many fine selections of fabrics and styles for the larger women and personalized dress designs, at reasonable prices. Drop in and say hello.

Check out Joe's Cable Car Restaurant (see ad). His burgers are fantastic.

Welcome, new members of the

Merchants Association: Valley Pharmacy and Lady Carol's Fashions. The June 10th meeting of the Association is for the election of new officers. All member merchants are encouraged to attend. May 13th, 7:00 p.m. Nomination of officers.

Of concern: customers wish stores would open on time and have sheives stocked prior to the store opening. Aisles blocked by boxes of goods cause customers to spend less and walk away disgruntied. Parking is a premium on Leland Ave. Double-parked delivery trucks are becoming a nusiance and safety Issue. Can and will the merchants do something about these problems?

Home Delivery Begins in May

The GRAPEVINE will begin home delivery in a selected area of Visitacion Valley and ali of Little Hollywood with this issue.

As a community service project, the Koyuse Camp Fire Club will deliver as follows: North side of Sunnydale from Sawyer to Bayshore Boulevard, to both sides of Arleta and residences and businesses on all streets in between.

Under the supervision of Anne

Kaartunen, Koyuse Club leader and GRAPEVINE Advertizing Manager, the Club will enrich its camping fund with money earned from this project.

Frank Norrell, former Little Hollywood Association president, will supervise the home delivery of the GRAPEVINE to all 400 homes in that neighborhood.

Service and youth clubs are encouraged to apply for delivery routes extending from Portola/San Bruno Avenue district to Brisbane. The GRAPEVINE will pay nominal fees for responsible home delivery.

INQUIRER

Cy Nancy Kerns Photos: Jamie Tanaka



DERRICK ELLENBERG, 24. 'There's a lot of people not working. We need more jobs for people out here. But you've got to give people a reasonable wage, so they can live a decent life. The places around here should hire more people from here, and pay more."



THE JACKSONS: Eddie, 41; Rita, 32; Fred, 3."Less talk and more work. The Housing Authority should get on their jobs; the (Sunnydale) apartr ts are a mess

...the flooring, the plumbing--everything. Maintenance on the yards would make it look a lot better too."

What improvements would you like in Visitacion Valley?



LOUIS KELLY, (age unknown). "I was reading the newspaper today about drugs being such a big problem even with extra cops around. You see people selling drugs out here every time you turn around. People can't feel good about this place until that stops."



TIM SHIRLEY, 24. "There's got to be something the community could put together to get all the people that are on welfare, that aren't doing anything, to clean up the streets and neighborhood. To get them to work in the community. It's got to be community people that put forth the effort, or things aren't going to change. A lot of people are able to work, and it would be better to get them to do at least a couple of hours of work a day."



JIMMY LESTER, 42. "I think we could clean up Geneva Towers. There's a lot of dope addicts, drug users, and pushers there. They could clean up the building by putting more plainclothes police officers In there. There's a lot of people using drugs and burglarizing apartments, and that's the only way they are going to solve this problem."



JAMELA THOMPSON, 14. They need to fix up Sunnydale, paint the houses and pick up all the trash. It needs to be cleaned up all over here; there's a lot of

SHIMA GARRET, 14. 'The drug selling needs to be stopped. And we need more stores; the es are too high at the ones nd here."

How Do **Gardens** Grow?

By Hyoka Bells

Well, May is here and so is our most productive growing season. By now you have prepared your plots, and are now ready for some serious planting! Get ready, get set...PLANT.

Plant Directly: Vegetables: beans, (bush & pole), beets, brussel sprouts, carrots, com, dill, cucumbers, eggplants, lettuce, melon, peanuts, parsnips, pumpkin, radlshes, spinach, swiss chard, soybeans, sunflowers, tumips.

Flowers:borage, cosmos, moming glory, nasturtiums, summer bulbs, shrubs & trees.

Transplant: Vegetables: basll, chard, cucumbers, eggplants, lettuce, peppers, rutabegus, squash,

Flowers: asters, marigolds, petunias, summer savory, zinnias.

Start in Flats: Vegetables: basil (all varieties), chard, collards, cucumbers, lettuce (leaf), melons, mustard, New Zealand spinach, pumpkins, rutabagus,

squash (summer & winter), tomatoes.

Flowers: asters, marigolds, petunias, summer savory, zinnlas.

Snails & slugs love these lings, so be prepared to prothem. Transplant large plants in

Prune: deciduous shrubs ter flowering, cut runners on str beries. Thin excess fruit on trees.

Watering: start deep watering for trees.

Compost; turn and water (if needed) regularly.

Pests: check for white flies, aphids, and spray with insecticidal soap. Interplant with garlic, and sprinkle flour or powdered sugar on crop.

Days to maturity for the following plants. Bush beans 40-50, pole beans 58, beets 40-50, broccoll 80, brussel sprouts 80-90, cabbage 70, chinese cabbage 60, carrots 60, cauliflower 60, (purple 80), com 65-75, cucumber 50-60, eggplants 65, leeks 90-100, lettuce head 80-90, leaf 45-55, butter head 65, melon 85, onions 130, sets 100, peas 60-70, peppers 70, pumpkin 110, radishes 20, spinach 48, summer squash 50, winter squash 90, swiss chard 50-60, tomatoes 60-80, turnips 50, greens 30.

CALENDAR

May 9: Community Center Annual Meeting for members only. Election of new Board members and luncheon.

May 9: Fellowship Day at St. James Presbyterian Church, 240 Leland Avenue. Light lunch, bake table and greeting card sales. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. sponsored by "Women-of St. James."

May 11: Art Show Opening, 50 Raymond Ave. Call 467-6400

May 13: Merchants Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Community Center

May 14: Art Show Community Reception -- 50 Raymomd Avenue,

Refreshments. Everyone invited. Made possible by a grant from San Francisco Neighborhood Arts Pro-

May 16: PREVENT BLINDNESS- Glaucoma screening for people over 35 years at District Health Center #3, 1525 Silver Avenue, from 8:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Fee \$5.00. Test Is simple, quick and painless. Call Amena Pannl at 468-1588.

DEADLINE: 20th ea. month

May 16: Parade 10:00a.m. beginning at Coffman Pool, reviewing stand on Leland Avenue.

Street Fair & Art Show, 11:00a.m. first block on Raymond Avenue. (see centerfold for details)

May 20: Little Hollywood Improvement Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m., at the Korean Presbytenan Church, 120 Lathrop Ave.

KIDS DON'T FORGET THE VISITACION VALLEY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM -- Monday through Saturday at VIsitacion Valley Park. See Ramona.

May 23: V.V. Improvement Club Meeting, Community Center, 62 Raymond Avenue, 7:00 p.m.

June 6: Geneva Towers Alvarado PTA planning Family BBQ. Sack races-egg -- rolls.

SportScene

Choosing A Sport Program For Your Kids

By Frank Oddo

With the coming of summer may parents will be enrolling their kids in sports or sports-like activitles. Here are a few pointers to keep in

1. Take the time and responsibillty to get involved. Your time, energy, and pocketbook will determine how many sports to enroll your kids in. Rememberl keep it sanel

2. Let your children participate in the decision making process. Listen to what they say they want to

3. How early the kids should start depends on their maturity, the sport, and the programs organization and orientation.

4. The sport you choose depends on the child's interests plus SAFETY. Team sports teach life-long social skills of friendship

and cooperation, while Individual sports enhance self-sufficiency, personal responsibility, and independence.

5. Is winning important to you and your child, or would you rather be involved in a program oriented to the child's development of goal participation, growth and fun?

6. What are the adult leaders like? Are they knowledgeable, well organized safe teachers? Is winning in perspective? Are they

authoritarian and critical or do they praise and encourage? Do they give equal treatment and listen to player input or are they on an ego

In conclusion, remember not everyone should be in sports. Don't push itl But, if you kids want to get involved remember to look at things like philosophy, leadership style, location, availability, costs and time involved

Good Lucki





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MURAL CELEBRATION

HISTORY OF VISITACION VALLEY



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Store Hours

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

